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TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT  
FOR THE YEAR 1969

PRESENTED BY

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT  
FOR THE YEAR 1969

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee:-

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report is drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 1/70 dated January, 1970. Included is the report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS

There were 182 births giving a Standardised Rate of 16.3 per thousand population, the same as the National Average. The Standardised Death Rate at 9.4 is well below the National Average of 11.9, but is a little higher than in 1968.

Cardiovascular disease caused 57% of the deaths and Cancer and Respiratory diseases each approximately 16% of deaths. This is similar to last years figures. There were two suicides.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A few cases of measles occurred. This disease should become less now that measles vaccination is taking place. A total of five cases of dysentery were followed up. Further comment about infectious diseases is given in the appropriate section of this Report.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

A complaint about a brown discolouration of drinking water was investigated by the South West Devon Water Board. Tests showed that bacterial purity of the water was maintained and the discolouration resulted from a surge of water in the mains causing deposits in the mains to be disturbed.

Progress was made with sewerage and sewage disposal schemes and river pollution will consequently be diminished or abolished when the schemes are completed.



I wish to thank the Councillors for their support during the year and also thank my colleagues on the staff for their co-operation.

JOHN WILDMAN,

Medical Officer of Health





PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1969

CHAIRMAN: Councillor R.C.W. Coates.  
VICE CHAIRMAN: Councillor Major General V.D.G. Campbell  
C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., J.P., D.L.  
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL Councillor A.F.E. Brunsdon.

together with all members of the Council

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John Wildman, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

PART-TIME DEPUTY M.O.H.

Mary E. Budding, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

F.B. Elliott, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,  
Public Health Department,  
Follaton House,  
Plymouth Road,  
Totnes.

Tel: Totnes 2481

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E.P.G. Bennett, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,  
Public Health Department,  
Follaton House,  
Plymouth Road,  
Totnes.

CLERK/TYPIST, PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Miss L. Hayter.

M.O.H. CENTRAL OFFICE

Area No. 5 - South West Devon,  
Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
8 Plymbridge Road,  
Plympton,  
Plymouth, PL7 4LG.

Tel: Plymouth 36644

M.O.H. CLERK

Miss G. Prowse.



## SECTION A

### VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1969

Table 1

(Figures for 1968 are shown in brackets)

#### POPULATION

The estimated mid-year population of Totnes Rural District is  
13,960 (13,850)

Natural increase or decrease	- 81
Migration in or out	+191
Total Increase or decrease	+110

#### GENERAL STATISTICS

##### Area of Totnes Rural District in Acres

82,632

##### Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books (1st April)

5,224 (5,172)

Number of houses per acre	.. .. .	0.063	(0.063)
Number of persons per acre	.. .. .	0.169	(0.168)
Number of persons per house	.. .. .	2.673	(2.678)

##### Rateable Value of District (1st April)

£449,432 (£438,703)

##### Sum represented by a penny rate (1st April)

£1,780 (£1,740)



# VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1969

Table 2

(Figures for 1968 are shown in brackets)

## B I R T H S

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	..	16.3	(16.5)
Area Comparability factor for births	.. .. .	1.00	(1.25)
<u>Number of Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	85	97	182
Legitimate	78	93	171
Illegitimate	7	4	11
Number of Still Births	0		0

## D E A T H S

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population	.. ..	9.4	(8.9)
Area comparability factor for deaths	.. .. .	0.50	(0.58)
<u>Number of Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All ages - total	130	133	263
Deaths of infants under 1 year	0	0	0
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	0	0
Number under 1 week of age	0	0	0
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births		0.0	(4.5)

## COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth rate	.. .. 16.3	(16.9)	Death rate	.. .. 11.9	(11.9)
Infantile mortality rate	18.0	(18.0)	(Infants under 1 year of age)		





# CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1969

CAUSE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
B4 Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	1	0	1
B6 Other tuberculosis, including late effects	0	1	1
B18 Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	1	1
B19(2) Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	1	2
B19(3) Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4
B19(4) Malignant neoplasm, intestine	2	2	4
B19(5) Malignant neoplasm, larynx	0	2	2
B19(6) Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	2	7
B19(7) Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	5	5
B19(8) Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
B19(9) Malignant neoplasm, prostate	4	-	4
B19(11) Other malignant neoplasms	7	8	15
B46(1) Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	0	1
B46(3) Mental disorders	0	1	1
B46(4) Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	1	0	1
B26 Chronic rheumatic heart disease	0	1	1
B27 Hypertensive disease	3	4	7
B28 Ischaemic heart disease	38	15	53
B29 Other forms of heart disease	3	10	13
B30 Cerebrovascular disease	26	31	57
B46(5) Other diseases of circulatory system	8	11	19
B31 Influenza	4	2	6
B32 Pneumonia	8	19	27
B33(1) Bronchitis and emphysema	6	3	9
B46(6) Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2	3
B34 Peptic ulcer	1	1	2
B38 Nephritis and nephrosis	0	1	1
B39 Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
B46(8) Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	1	2
B46(10) Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	1	2
B45 Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	4	5
BE48 All other accidents	2	1	3
BE49 Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	1	2
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	130	133	263





## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### 1. Hospitals

The Rural District is served by hospitals in Totnes, Dartmouth, Brixham, Paignton, Newton Abbot, Ashburton, Torquay and Bittaford.

#### 2. Laboratory Facilities

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory services at Exeter and Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by Public Analysts at Exeter.

#### 3. Mass Miniature Radiography

The Unit visited main towns in the area once a fortnight throughout the year and all persons living in the rural parishes were easily able to obtain chest X-rays.

#### 4. County Health Services

Under the Nation Health Services Act, 1946, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home help services and the care of persons suffering from illness or mental disorders and the aftercare of such persons.

Nine district nurse/midwives work in the district together with four health visitors and a nursing assistant. Child welfare clinics are held at regular intervals at South Brent, Stoke Gabriel and Kingswear.

The home help service is provided by the County Council. A chiropody service has now been introduced for the handicapped, the aged and expectant mothers. Chiropody clinics are held in Stoke Gabriel, Buckfastleigh, Totnes and South Brent.

#### 5. Family Planning Service

A clinic is held at the Central Clinic, Midvale Road, Paignton every first and third Monday of the month, 6.00 to 7.30 p.m.; every 2nd and 4th Monday, 2.00 to 3.30 p.m. A clinic is also held at the Adult Education Centre, Dartington, on the 3rd Tuesday afternoon of alternate months beginning in January of each year.



## SECTION C

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Table 1

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP IN YEARS					
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65
Measles	55	5	27	21	1	0	1
Dysentery	5	0	1	2	0	1	1
Acute Encephalitis	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0

Table 2

DISEASE	TOTAL	INCIDENCE BY QUARTERS			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Measles	55	17	3	32	3
Dysentery	5	5	0	0	0
Acute Encephalitis	1	1	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	1	0	0	1	0

#### INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION

In accordance with the requirements of the World Health Regulations 40 certificates of Smallpox or Cholera vaccinations in respect of persons travelling abroad were authenticated by the Public Health Department.

#### INFECTIONS COMMON TO FARM ANIMALS AND MAN

A total of 55 outbreaks of SALMONELLOSIS were reported on farms, 51 due to Salmonella dublin in cattle, some of which died, 3 due to Salmonella typhimurium and 1 due to Salmonella menston in turkey poults. All the incidents were followed up by your Inspectors and Medical Officer of Health, and no human cases of illness were discovered. At a meeting of Veterinary Officers held early in 1970 it was reported that Salmonellosis had a seasonal incidence in the Autumn, when ground water was at its maximum temperature thus aiding survival of Salmonella organisms. Also 10% to 12% of cattle can be carriers of infection. Slurry from intensive rearing of cattle (and from milking parlours) becomes infected and pollutes streams.





## INFECTIONS COMMON TO FARM ANIMALS AND MAN (Cont.)

Cattle left grazing on water meadows would drink polluted water thus becoming infected. This latter problem was being investigated by the River Authority. In a number of cases cattle were also infected with liver fluke disease and this made the animals more susceptible to salmonellosis.

Brucellosis in milk was reported at two farms. In both cases all milk was sent to a creamery for pasteurisation and none was sold in its raw state except what the farmers used themselves. They were advised to scald the milk before use to kill the Brucella organisms.

One cow died of ANTHRAX. The Police took control under the Diseases of Animals Acts and the cow was cremated. All the usual precautions were taken at the farm, and no human cases of anthrax occurred.

## RUBELLA (GERMAN MEASLES) AND PREGNANCY

One lady, two months pregnant, contracted German Measles. It was considered advisable to terminate her pregnancy on account of the great risk of abnormalities happening to her unborn child.

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## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

### Section 47

No action was necessary for the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention, but informal action secured the removal of an old man in a dilapidated caravan into welfare accommodation. The caravan was removed and the site cleared up.

### Section 50

No burials took place under this Section.



## SECTION D

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. WATER

Most properties in the Rural District receive a water supply from the South West Devon Water Board mains.

#### DWELLINGS SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS

Parish	1968-69 Est. pop.	No. dwellings with piped water supply (direct)	No. dwellings relying on standpipes
Ashprington	333	76	-
Berry Pomeroy	386	61	-
Buckfastleigh West	260	43	-
Cornworthy	293	41	-
Dartington	1,233	89	-
Dean Prior	259	14	-
Diptford	289	77	-
Dittisham	512	173	-
Halwell	193	57	3
Harberton			
Harberton Ward )	810	74	1
Harbertonford Ward )	240	61	-
Holne			
Kingswear	1,198	242	-
Littlehempston	172	35	-
Marldon	1,645	475	-
Morleigh	108	26	-
North Huish	289	70	-
Rattery	325	89	-
South Brent	1,735	494	-
Staverton	614	98	-
Stoke Gabriel	1,103	367	-
Ugborough	2,089	354	1

Samples were frequently taken during the year and unsatisfactory sources were re-sampled. Mains water was suggested in several instances.





## 2. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The weekly refuse collection was maintained throughout the year with the minimum of overtime in spite of repeated breakdowns of the vehicles.

## 3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Compton and Marlton - This scheme to enlarge the existing sewage disposal works is progressing and completion is expected by the end of the year.

Ugborough - The modernisation of these works, together with the provision of Sludge Drying Beds, has been completed.

Tuckenhay - A sewerage and sewage disposal scheme has been prepared. This scheme incorporates the enlargement of the Asprington sewage disposal works.

Aish, South Brent - A sewer extension scheme has been prepared to serve certain properties without main drainage facilities.

Mill Creek, Dittisham - Provision of outfall works to the existing main sewer is being investigated.

## 4. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Action here is designed to be mainly preventative as opposed to curative. This is effected in large measure by routine visits to refuse tips, sewage works and other vulnerable premises and the annual treatment of sewers.

The Council continued to share the services of a Rodent Operator with Totnes Borough Council until the Autumn when a contract was entered into with Messrs. Rentokil, Ltd.

## 5. VISITS OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING 1969

Meat	225	Vehicle Maintenance	29
Infectious diseases	85	Building Inspection	168
Drainage	272	Village Halls	48
Refuse Collection		Rodent Control	28
and Disposal	245	Nuisances	98
Abandoned Vehicles	12	Petroleum Regulations	20
Housing Grant Aid	248	Pests	40



## 5. VISITS OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING 1969 (Cont.)

River Pollution	15	Food Hygiene	38
Shops Act	33	Milk Samples	10
Caravans	176	Housing Survey	42
Faeces Samples	9	Welfare	2
Housing Repairs	30	Water Supply	61
Housing Re-inspection	48	Unsound Food	6
Diseases of Animals	4	Animal Boarding	
Civic Amenities	10	Establishments	21
Slaughterhouses	21	Factories Act	11
Oyster Sampling	1		

Total - 2026

## 6. CARAVANS

Address of Site	Type of Licence	No. of 'Vans
Bathill Camp, Greenway Road, Galmpton	Seasonal	56
Blue Post Filling Station, Harberton	Tourist/Transit	12
Littlecombe, Holne	Residential	1
Widdecombe Farm, Compton, Marldon	Residential	1
Smokey House Inn, Marldon	Residential	5
Jebland Farm, Avonwick, South Brent	Residential	4
	Seasonal	46
Bittaford Wood, Ugborough	Residential	43
The Glen, Ladbroke, Ugborough	Seasonal	1
Folly Cross, Wrangaton, Ugborough	Touring	15
Marsh Park, Wrangaton, Ugborough	Residential	2
Edeswell Farm, Bampton	Holiday	27
Higher Well Farm, Stoke Gabriel	Seasonal	15
White Oaks Poultry Farm, Filham, Ugborough	Seasonal	4

### Summary

Number of residential caravans	- 56
Number of holiday caravans	- 27
Number of seasonal caravans	- 122
Number of tourist caravans	- 27



7. Office, Shops and Railway Premises for the year 1969

Newly registered - 1 office

Total number - 26 offices  
23 retail shops  
2 wholesale shops and warehouses  
10 catering establishments open to the public  
and canteens

Total number - 61

Number of premises receiving more than one inspection:-

13 offices  
30 retail shops  
7 catering establishments open to the public  
and canteens

Number of visits (including general inspections) - 50

Number of persons employed:-

111 in offices  
80 in retail shops  
10 in wholesale departments and warehouses  
56 in catering establishments  
4 in canteens

106 males and 155 females, total of 261 persons employed.





## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### 1. Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

Type of Shop	Total No.	No. fitted to comply with Reg. 16 (hand washing facilities)	No. of premises to which Reg. 19 applied (separate sinks)	No. of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Grocery and general provisions	46	40	23	20
Bakehouses	1	1	1	1
Bread and confectionery	14	10	1	1
Butchers	6	6	3	3
Slaughterhouses	2	2	0	1
Fish	1	1	1	1
Licensed Houses, Hotels and Inns	29	26	23	27
Cafes	7	7	5	4
Schools and works canteens	1	1	1	1
TOTALS	137	94	64	59

#### 2. Meat condemned in slaughterhouses at South Brent and Ugborough

Beef	310 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Mutton and Lamb	127 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Pork	302 lb.
TOTAL	740 lb.





### 3. Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Beasts including cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	232	10	1,058	401
All diseases except TB and Cysticercosis - whole carcase condemned	-	-	2	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	30	-	30	12
% of number inspected affected with disease	12.9	-	6.7	2.9
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases from which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	4
% of number inspected affected with TB	-	-	-	.99
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-



## SECTION F

### HOUSING

#### 1. Unfit Houses

During the year 2 Demolition Orders were made and 3 Closing Orders were cancelled.

#### 2. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

##### Discretionary Grants

(a) Grants paid during the year	
(b) Total Amount	£2,494 12. 7.
(c) Properties approved for grant	15
(d) Total maximum grant	£4,520 12. 5.

##### Standard

(a) Grants paid during the year	26
(b) Total Amount	£4,976 6. 6.
(c) Properties approved for grant	24
(d) Total maximum grant	£4,060 6. 6.



APPENDIX A

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1969 FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF TORRIS IN

THE COUNTY OF DEVON

Prescribed particulars on the administration of  
the Factories Act, 1961

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

(i) Factories without Mechanical Power  
(Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6)

Number on Register	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Written Notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Occupiers prosecuted	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

(ii) Factories with Mechanical Power  
(Section 7)

Number on Register	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Written Notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Occupiers prosecuted	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

(iii) Other Premises under the Act  
(Section 7)

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building  
Operations, Works of Engineer Construction but excluding  
Outworkers' Premises)

Number on Register	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Written Notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Occupiers prosecuted	..	..	..	..	..	..	0



2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
		Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.L. (4)	By H.L. (5)	
Lack of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	1	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp- erature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventila- tion (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage on floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	1	-
TOTALS	5	5	-	3	-





PART 8 - OUTWORK

SECTIONS 133 AND 134

During 1969 there were two outworkers in the district

SECTION 133

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August list	No. of cases of defaults in send- ing lists to Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists
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Makin wearing apparel	2	Nil	Nil
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SECTION 134

No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
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Nil	Nil	Nil
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